

**REMARKS**

Applicant is pleased to note that the Examiner has allowed claims 35-40 and has indicated that claims 16-18, and 27-29 are directed towards patentable subject matter.

Independent claims 23, 24, and 34, and the claims which depend therefrom, all stand rejected as unpatentable over Sato in view of Shiue.

Claim 23 has been amended to specify that the through hole extending through the third interlayer insulating film is "formed so that it at least two side wall laminations abutting the third interlayer insulating film are located around edges of the through hole ". Similar amendments have been made to independent claims 24 and 34. In the preferred embodiment, these laminations correspond to the laminations 30b of Fig. 1 and served to prevent the disconnection of the pad layer 32 at the upper peripheral edge of the through hole 28b. In view of the foregoing, applicant's invention as defined in claims 23, 24 and 34 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 14-22, and 25-33 depend from independent claims 23 and 24, respectively. These recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claims 23 and 24, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

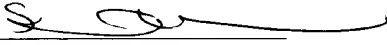
Application No.: 09/866,421

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Reconsideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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